

AN

APPEAL

TO

THE GENTLEMEN

STUDYING MEDICINE

AT

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

By FRANCISCO SOLANO CONSTANCIO, M. D.

SOC. MED. ED. SOC. ET SOC. NAT. STUD,

ED. PRAES. ANN.

SECOND EDITION,

WITH A PREFACE AND POSTSCRIPT BY A FRIEND OF THE AUTHOR.

Nemo me impune lacesset.

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1797.

Speedily will be published, in two vols. duodecimo,

THE GHOST!

A COLLECTION OF PERIODICAL ESSAYS,

Published at Edinburgh, in the Year 1796,

BY FELIX PHANTOM.

“ All knowing, all unknown, and yet well known,
“ Near tho’ remote, and tho’ unfathom’d felt,
“ And tho’ invisible for ever seen.”

YOUNG.

The Editor's Preface.

DR. Francisco Solano Constancio, of the Kingdom of Portugal, after a regular course of studies at London and Edinburgh, having been refused the degree of Doctor of Medicine by the University of Edinburgh, thought it a duty he owed to the world, and to his own character, to address his fellow-Students in the following letter. The Gentleman who now brings forward a second Edition of this pamphlet, does so in justice to an absent friend, whose name has been most insidiously traduced since his departure from this Country. Those men who had not courage to attack him fairly and openly, have been base enough to use the dagger of the assassin; not however with that success their malice fondly anticipated.

How Dr. Constancio was treated by the Professors on his examination, the pamphlet itself will shew. His statement of the facts must be held as true: had it been false, or even exaggerated, the Gentlemen of the Medical chairs would undoubtedly have condescended to contradict it. Nor will it be enough for the learned Doctors to alledge, that it is beneath their dignity to enter the Lists of argument with every man to whom they judge it proper to deny a Diploma. It is well known at Edinburgh, that they felt sufficiently sore upon the publication of this pamphlet; and the world will more than suspect that they shield themselves under the importance of their situation, from answering what they dare not deny. Those who know at once Dr. Constancio's uncommon abilities

lities and learning, and the ignorance and incapacity of many who have been even of late graduated by this illustrious Medical School, will attribute his rejection to its proper motives*. They will suspect that even learned Professors have not sufficient Philosophy to bear with temper the shafts of ridicule.

It has amongst other things been industriously propagated (from what quarter the Editor does not presume to say) that Dr. Constancio held himself out as the son of Mr. Manuel Constancio, the Professor of Anatomy at Lisbon, when in fact, he was not so. This injurious slander shews the mean arts his enemies have been reduced to, but it does not deserve refutation. Those who circulated it well knew it to be a most malignant falsehood, and those who have doubts in this respect, may upon application to any respectable Portuguese House in Town, or to his Excellency the Portuguese Ambassador, be fully satisfied, that his father is the Professor of Anatomy, and Surgeon to the Queen's Household; and that Dr. Constancio himself was sent to pursue his studies here, under the immediate patronage of the Court of Portugal.

LONDON,
September 1797.

* It is believed that Dr. Constancio does not possess much less knowledge, both in Science and in Medicine, than even the Son, and probable Successor, of the Professor of Anatomy, who at last Graduation, was invested with the Cap.

AN APPEAL, &c.

GENTLEMEN,

YOU are all well acquainted with the circumstances which have given rise to this publication; therefore any explanation on the subject is unnecessary. To you I address the following pages, because I deem you the only impartial judges of the conduct of the Professors towards me: none are so competent to decide on the truth of the facts here adduced, as you, who have been eye-witnesses of most of them. On your decision I rely; and if I shall be acquitted by a jury of enlightened men, of men who have of themselves raised the credit of this University, who so often have taught their masters*, and forced them to abandon old and erroneous opinions, who, in short, are now so superior to their teachers; such a verdict will firmly root in my mind the only impression which the behaviour of our Professors left in me;—a marked contempt.

It may appear presumptuous to anticipate your decision, before all your opinions are known to
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* In this number are, Fordyce, Hewson, Goodwyn, Menzies, Lufuriaga, Lubbock, Beddoes, &c.

me, but the consciousness of having been treated in an unjust manner, and the many proofs I have had of your candour, leave no doubt in my mind that you will acquit me. My rejection, Gentlemen, ought to be a warning to all those, that, like me, have not feared the bugbear of a privileged teacher, who, whether good or bad, must be see'd, heard, revered, and courted, to obtain the Magic Cap. Ye, who dare think for yourselves, tremble ! for the rod of power is lifted against all unbelievers in the godlike wisdom of your hired teachers. My cause is yours ; the same fate may befall any of you, for the same crimes. It is the policy of Universities, to reject some candidates yearly ; why not the obnoxious in preference ?

It is with real satisfaction I can assure my friends, as well as my enemies, that the vengeance of the latter was impotent : in my country, where an examination is always undergone by foreign graduates, my abilities, or my ignorance, will determine my success.

The event which has just taken place was not unexpected : I had foreseen, that were I to offer myself, I should infallibly be rejected. Six months ago, most of my fellow Students expressed the same belief ; and, I flatter myself, it was not on the ground of my profound ignorance. I had too much reason to expect the punishment incurred by the great crime of having spoken the truth freely at an University. At last I determined to try the candour of the Wise Men ; and the event

too well proved how right my fears had been. So sure was I of what would happen, that, in the month of April 1795, I took a degree of the University of St Andrew's, in virtue of an attestation of my having attended all branches of Medicine, and being able to practise, signed by several Physicians, whose names would not lose by a comparison with my enemies. You see, then, Gentlemen, that I am as good a Doctor as one of your Professors *, who obtained his parchment from the same source, and who formerly dealt so much in signing attestations for those who chose to obtain the like.

By the account subjoined of my examination, you will find, that the ostensible reasons for my being rejected were, *imo*, Because I could not answer a question from Dr. Monro, which he himself confessed, after the examination, every man could answer: the purport of it was, to know why the lungs do not collapse in a living man? and why, when a wound is made into the thorax, they fall into that state? You see evidently, that nothing but circumlocution and obscurity would have prevented my answering what every common porter could easily resolve, *2do*, I could not tell by what process and apparatus the tartarous acid and antimony were united by the apothecaries, in making the tartrate of antimony. I question much if the great Monro knows it at this moment. These two are the only things that could be given as reasons
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* Dr Duncan is an M. D. of the University of St. Andrews.

for my rejection, I having in no other instance committed any error whatever.

Are these motives to have rejected a man, who, during an examination of an hour and a half*, shews his knowledge of every branch of Medicine; who commits no mistake, from which the lives of his patients can in the smallest degree suffer? Had I failed in answering four or five questions, of no importance to practice, did I deserve to be declared totally incapable of practising? If such a decision was just, then let my judges shudder at the prodigious number of men, who, totally ignorant of Medicine, have by them been furnished with a pompous Diploma. This is a lamentable truth, which none of them dares deny. Yet this *Senate* declared to me, by their organ Dr. Monro, That *of all men who ever offered themselves as candidates for a Doctor's degree, none ever answered worse*. If you believe me to be a greater blockhead than many who have attained the high honour of Doctor at Edinburgh, then I shall rest satisfied with the justice of my examiners; but, I trust, that, after five years attention to medicine, I am not quite so deficient as the Professors would persuade me. Without comparing myself, I cannot help bringing to my recollection many graduates, whose ignorance of Medicine and of Latin are notorious. It is well known to you, that many never study Medicine until the last six months, and then with a *grinder*, who teaches question and answer: yet these men, often

* That is about three quarters more than usual.

often unable to express themselves in a language of which they are intirely ignorant, obtain with great ease their Diplomas. I have known one, who, a day previous to his examination, freely confessed to me, he could not translate the easiest passage of the easiest Latin author; yet the examinations are all in Latin! Is it not a matter of public notoriety, that many gentlemen buy their Theses ready made? as to getting them translated, that is done even by the sons of Professors, whose fathers often allow them to be published, filled with shameful blunders. Lastly, is it not known to all physicians, that there have been, particularly of late, a great number of Edinburgh graduates rejected at the College in London, for not being able to answer the simplest questions? Need I dwell any longer upon what you are all convinced of, a matter of the greatest publicity?

These considerations will be sufficient, I hope, to convince you, that I was made a victim, because I had dared to speak my mind freely,---because I had censured the lectures, the opinions, the conduct of the Professors, laughed at their comical public examination*,---in short, because I courted no favour, and exposed their ignorance whenever an opportunity offered itself.

It was no doubt *imprudent*, on my part, to censure men who could so easily revenge themselves. But could any man, who has a regard for truth, who
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* This alludes to a letter published in a Periodical Paper, with justice attributed to me.

hates quackery, see the farce of a public examination with patience? Here stands a Professor, with the questions he means to ask written on the margin of the Candidate's Thesis; there another, afraid of entering into a controversy with a better Latin scholar than himself, praises a bad Thesis to the skies, and refuses to question the author. The Gentlemen for the most part answer the questions with a grin; often they read a passage of their Dissertation, which forms a pretty contrast to the questions and speeches of their Examinators. In the same manner that I censured this farce, and wished myself a second Moliere, to paint it in its proper colours, I also ridiculed the pretensions of some Professors to discoveries they never made, to the knowledge of languages they never learnt. Nor have I been able to listen patiently to the jargon delivered in many of their lectures; they became to me so tedious, uninteresting, and disgusting, that I often preferred to employ my time better than in hearing them. This, I understand, is a reason adduced for my rejection. It is hard, that we not only are obliged to see the Professors, to court them, and their sons, but even to hear them!

It may not be improper here to take a short view of the merits of these men.

Although I am not an advocate for examinations in Latin, yet, since this is the language made use of in this University, let us see whether all its members know more of it than what just suffices for writing a common prescription. The ignorance of
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of some on this head is so manifest, that the Professors themselves have discovered, at the public examination, many grammatical errors in the Dissertations corrected by their colleagues. The famous Brown used to say, that he translated his *Elementa* into English, to render the work intelligible to some of the Professors. With much more reason might he now see a necessity for such a measure; when one Professor gives out in the Infirmary the following phrase, *Restet emplastrum*; or, in plain English, Let the plaster stay in its place; or, when he disputes, whether *vesperi* be Latin, or if there is such a term as *sinciput*. Another, I can prove, can neither conjugate a verb, nor decline a noun; at least he thought that *potebam* was the imperfect of *possum*, and *paucibus* the ablative plural of *paucus*.

Now to their science, and particularly their knowledge of Chemistry, of which Dr. Monro had the insolence to tell me I did not know the principles, because I forgot the pharmaceutical preparation of the tartrate of antimony. Unluckily the chemical knowledge of this great man is not much admired, and I believe, his ignorance on the subject is almost proverbial among the students. How often have you heard a certain great* man declare, that he is unacquainted with the nature of the *somewhat* which is given out, and the *somewhat* taken in, in respiration, although his great genius had, *as far back as the time when he began to lecture*
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* Said to allude to the Professor of Anatomy.

in this place, suspected that somewhat was given out, and somewhat was taken in, in respiration?—So did my nurse. Who has not heard him prove, *a priori* that no-uncombined soda can exist in the blood? His diagrams, his wooden frogs, his eternal *somewhat*, the cause of every thing, his prentensions to discovery, are well known to you: his improvements are bright and numerous; his books, although now sold at greatly reduced prices, and sometimes for snuff-paper, are bulky and valuable. What has his eye of lynx not observed, which escaped the senses of other men! Had he not the modesty to assert, once, that “*a certain*” Mr. Cline’s gorgets had been invented by himself, and found not to answer? Yes, perhaps in his own hands.

The next precious limb of the University is the Metaphysician,* whose knowledge in Chemistry is not greater than that of his colleague already described. His lectures are delivered in the greatest disorder, the greatest part of the time being taken up, with either reading long passages from bad old authors, or in relating stories, some of which are only fit to amuse children. He is such an utter stranger to method, that I have heard him begin a lecture on fever, and end it with rules for putting on noses. By intermingling his ridiculous tales with the doctrine of fevers, which takes up almost the whole of his course, he strives to excite the mirth of the thoughtless, who daily go to his lectures to lounge for an hour; but I am confident, that no
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* Supposed to mean the Professor of the Practice of Physick.

man of sense can patiently hear such a medley of nonsense mixed with an imperfect, incomplete, and confused account of a *few* diseases only; for he refers his students to other authors for information on the remaining diseases, which he forgets to treat of. This man has been known to say to several gentlemen, who expressed their determination not to graduate here, on account of their deficiency in the Latin language, this great man told them, that in a month a *grinder* would teach all that was necessary to pass: *how well is he aware that the examinations are sometimes a farce!*

One Professor, * I need not inform you, was named to teach what he did not know: You are well acquainted with the *silent* and *modest* discoverer of every thing. Another † delivers lectures on the properties and diseases of the nervous fluid, and concludes by doubting its existence;—talks of the irritative, the nervous, the paralytic rheumatism. He explains all phenomena in physiology by the hydrocarbonous impregnation: his verbose, monotonous, and empty lectures are equal to opiates in soporific power. Of a certain old man, his age is a sufficient excuse for the nature of his lectures. §

It is impossible to pass in silence the pedantic *petit-maitre*, † and his blunders. His genius is al-

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ready

* Alluding, it is supposed, to the Professor of Botany.

† Is this the St. Andrew's Doctor before mentioned?

§ Dr. HOME. It is justice to that Gentleman, to say that he did not concur in this proceeding of his Colleagues.

† Perhaps this is intended to be applied to Dr. HOME, the juvenile Professor of Chemistry.

ready known, by a curious theory of inflammation, which he delivered in his lectures, in order to teach those who debated on that subject, in the Medical Society. One of his propositions is, that the small arteries have a power quite different from any possessed by the trunks, which constantly tends to contract them: this is the *vis tonica*, which, however, is completely counterbalanced by the *vis a tergo*: ergo, the smallest arteries have no motion!!! A mere novice in Medicine, he thought of teaching it.—When he acquires more knowledge of his profession, then let him look back to the case-books of the infirmary, let him be ashamed, nay, shudder at his ignorance. Did he not treat a patient, labouring under enteritis with opium and calomel? he never thought of evacuating the intestines by mild laxatives, but was imprudent enough to exhibit repeated *drastic* purges. Did he not postpone the use of tonics, in a typhous succeeding small-pox, from being unacquainted with the rules of exhibiting them? Yet this man lectured; he taught us Medicine. You may judge, whether he does not deserve to be expunged from the list of Physicians. Let the world decide, which is more essential for a Physician so know, the mode of preparing a medicine, or the method of curing patients of the most common diseases. Recollect the names of Patterson, of Gray, of Wood; and say, if what I assert is false.

Such are, Gentlemen, the men by whom I have been rejected. Nothing less could be expected
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from University-tyrants. My crimes were great: in Medicine, as in other matters, I was not orthodox; I dared to speak the truth openly, and to doubt of the infallibility of the SENATUS. I declared their examinations to be mere farce, because I saw men who professed to know nothing of Medicine, nay, perfect ideots, yearly honoured with the Cap. The Professors have now attempted to prove, that an examination is not a farce; but unless they persuade the world, that I am more ignorant than any of those who have graduated here, they will only have substantiated my charge against themselves, and the public will be convinced, that neither knowledge nor abilities are required, nor are they sufficient to obtain a degree.

A



A short ACCOUNT of the EXAMINATION I underwent, at the house of Dr MONRO, on Friday, May 12, 1797.

DR. MONRO,

Professor of Anatomy.

ACCORDING to his desire, I described the circulation of the blood in the adult, gave the proofs of it; described the structure of the heart and blood-vessels, gave proofs of the muscularity of the arteries; mentioned the use of valves in the veins, and where they are found; distinguished hæmorrhage into active and passive, and explained their nature, how inflammation was produced; that is, I said, that a *stimulus* excited the arteries of the part where an accumulation took place, because the blood could not return back to the heart as quickly as the vessels propelled it into the inflamed part. I then explained the means by which respiration was carried on, its uses, the structure and vessels of the *trachea*, *bronchia*, and lungs, the size and mode of communication of the air-cells, then the covering of the lungs, *mediastinum*, its situation, use, &c. Lastly, Dr Monro asked a question, which, on account of its length and circumlocution, even when I required him to explain himself, I did not answer: Dr Monro meant by it to ask the reason, why, when the tho-

rax was wounded, the lungs collapse? Dr Monro appeared satisfied with the rest of my answers.

DR GREGORY,

Professor of the Practice of Physic,

Required me to enumerate the diseases to which the lungs are subject. I told him they were inflammation, and its consequences, *hydrothorax*, *hæmoptysis*, *phthisis pulmonalis*: I said, I could recollect no more; when Dr Gregory, in ill-humour, asked, if there was no disease of the whole organs and function of respiration? I answered, Suspended animation or *asphyxia*. He did not seem pleased, and asked the definition of *asphyxia*; I replied, that it was no more than a total cessation for the time of the whole functions of the body, caused by suffocation, or the presence of unrespirable air, rendering respiration impossible. I mentioned particularly, that the affection of the brain and nerves were here a consequence of impeded respiration, not as in other diseases, where they are the cause. This displeased the Doctor excessively, probably because he entertains some old ridiculous notion, that acid vapours act first upon the brain and nerves: his little acquaintance with pneumatic medicine may be an excuse for his ignorance. He then asked, To what class, order, and genus, in Cullen's Nosology, *asphyxia* belonged. Not recollecting to have seen it there, I hesitated, and at last said it could only belong either to the *Adynamiæ*, or the *comata* of the *neuroses*: to which of the two?

said

said he; I then recollecting to have seen it as a synonyme, under the *Comata*, referred it accordingly: he immediately asked the definition of *Comata*; which was given. Dr Gregory said very peevishly, “Then it does not belong to the *Comata*, but to *Syncope*, a genus of the order *Adynamiæ*.” I am sorry I had it not in my power to have required him to give the definition of *Syncope*, and of the *Adynamiæ*; for, I believe I might have convinced him. that in the *asphyxia submersorum* or from carbonic acid, which I specified, there was something more than *motus cordis imminutus, vel aliquandiu quiescens*. Mr. John Hunter was subject to a similar complaint, without having any *asphyxia*.

The fact is, that there is no such disease included in Cullen’s Nosology, except as a synonyme from *Sauvages* under *apoplexia*, that is, under the *Comata* to which I referred it. There Dr. Gregory will find the *asphyxia a fumis a carbone submersorum*. while under *syncope* he will only see that a *pathemate*. How evident is it that he only meant to puzzle, by requiring me to refer a disease to a nosology where it is not! and how ridiculous was the correction of the nosologist! He was proceeding on his questions, when Dr. Home, who seemed to be heartily tired, begged him to stop.

DR. HOME,

Professor of Materia Medica,

Questioned me on *phthisis*, its causes, its various stages, the cure of the inflammatory stage, the proper

per regimen, the remedies; in all which he was answered to his perfect satisfaction.

DR. RUTHERFORD,

Professor of Botany,

Asked the definition of *Hætic*, the termination of the fit; I mentioned it to be in sweat, which did not leave the patient relieved, and that often, in the middle of the fever, the chilling came on: I also mentioned the causes; as, suppurating ulcers, when an irritation was present: I said it accompanied *phthisis*, and many diseases, but was sometimes *idiopathic*; which is undeniable. Although the Doctor did not seem pleased, I refer him to Townsend's Guide to Health, where there is a case of *Hætic*, attended with worms, without an affection of any part; to *Sauvages*; and to Dr. Hamilton of Lynn Regis. He asked, what part of the body the sweat occupied most? I could specify none in particular: he replied, the upper parts. This observation is neither general in authors, nor of any consequence. Thus he terminated his questions.

DR DUNCAN,

Professor of the Theory of Physic,

Questioned me on *hydrothorax*; I gave the symptoms, with the exception of the starting from sleep, and the irregular pulse, which I mentioned the moment the state of both was asked. I also gave the reason of the difficulty of lying in a horizontal posture,

posture, from the pressure of the fluid on the *diaphragm*, and perhaps, ss some say, on the *bronchia*. I likewise gave the causes of *hydrolborax*. Finally.

DR. HOPE,

Professor of Chemistry (jointly with Dr. Black,)

Asked the definition of *pertussis*; which was given, or rather an account of the symptoms; therefore I did not mention its being contagious until he asked the cause; which I said was a peculiar contagion, inducing spasm. I mentioned, that the fits terminated in convulsions, often in vomiting, which was a favourable symptom; that the face became turgid, and sometimes blood gushed out from the eyes, ears, &c. I said (all this in answer to appropriate questions), that it succeeded *catarrh*; that it lasted from a month upwards; that it attacked men generally once in life, ofteneft when children, and was most dangerous to children, whom it affected more from the irritable state of their intestines. The remedies, I said, were chiefly emetics, antispasmodics, diaphoretics, laxatives, &c. He required me to name some diaphoretic medicines; I mentioned emetics in nauseating doses, ipecacuanha and opium, diluents, &c. He then asked, if there was no neutral salt? and, on my hesitating, he said, one which made an *baustus salinus*, of which he asked the ingredients; and was answered, *potassu* and nitrous acid, which is really a diaphoretic medicine; but Dr. H. appeared

appeared displeased, because he meant to ask the constituent parts of the common *haustus salinus*; here, however, there was no error on my part; he then asked, whether *pertussis* belonged to the *pyrexia*? I answered in the negative. Dr. Hope then asked me the component parts of emetic tartar; I replied, the tartarous acid and antimony: How would you prepare it? *Nescio*, I replied. And thus ended my examination.

Being shewn into the next room, Dr. Monro soon came and announced to me the news of my rejection, giving as reasons, my not having solved his and Dr. Hope's questions, who, in particular, was decided in his opinion, that I ought to be rejected; Dr. M. expressed his surprize at my not having answered the simple question he had asked, saying, it was so very plain, that he never had met a man who could not answer it; to which I replied, "*This proves that it was its obscurity alone which prevented my giving a proper answer.*" I remonstrated against the injustice of the decision, and begged he would let me speak to the other Professors; Dr. M. excused himself, saying they were gone. To try still more their character, I requested to have a second examination; but this was refused by Dr. Monro, and by the others, who, it seems, had already given him orders that purpose. Their reasons for denying to me what had been granted to many before, was, that I had not shewn myself much agitated with fear during the examination: "Your abilities, Sir, (said Monro), are, we know,

above par, but, then,-----muttering something which I did not understand, he pointed to my attestation, which he held in his hand, and observed, that I had attended the classes only once, except the Clinical lectures; and on my replying, that he well knew I had in London attended two courses of anatomy, physiology, dissection, and surgery, with Mr. Cline, one with Dr. Baillie and Mr. Cruickshanks; that I had been a pupil of Dr. Fordyce, of Mr. Hunter, of Dr. Higgins, of Mr. Pearson; that I had attended the practice of St Thomas's and Guy's Hospitals; and, moreover, that I was not certain if I could have remained long at this university; he seemed to hint, he would have let me attend his lectures gratis!!!! Finally, he dismissed me, saying: "*Sir, Of all who have ever offered themselves as candidates, none ever answered worse than you: the examination was very fair, and we want to prove, THAT THIS IS A REAL EXAMINATION, NOT A MERE MATTER OF FORM.*"

Thus, Gentlemen, I conclude this Appeal to your candour; AND I CALL UPON THE PROFESSORS TO ANSWER MY STATEMENT; certain, that if they retain a spark of honour, which I trust they do, they will not dare to contradict the facts I have laid before you.

I am,

GENTLEMEN,

With profound regard,

Your most obedient servant,

F. S. CONSTANCIO.

EDINBURGH, }
May 19, 1797. }

Postscript.

THE public may be desirous to know specifically the offence given by Dr. Constancio to the Senatus Academicus of Edinburgh, which ruffled so much the temper and philosophy of the learned Doctors. They shall not be disappointed.

A periodical paper was, in the year 1796, published at Edinburgh, under the title of THE GHOST. Dr. Constancio wrote in it several essays, which do not discredit even a rejected Candidate for an Edinburgh Degree. Among these is the following letter referred to in the Appeal, page 7.

MOST WISE PHANTOM,

Behold the offspring of the Mandarin Cham-pi-pi. I am commissioned by the mighty Tchien-Long. The information communicated to the Emperor by my father, has induced that wise Monarch to send another to inquire into the state of Europe at this crisis. The diligence with which my father instructed me in European languages, enabled me to undertake this important mission. Our Emperor having heard much of Scotland, and particularly of the learning in that country, has enabled me to make my residence for some time at Edinburgh, and to transmit my reflections to the Mandarin Catau-you-se, who presides over public education. I keep myself disguised, my principal mission being of a political nature. Observations upon manners, however, requiring no privacy, I purpose to send you occasionally some remarks, which you are at liberty to transmit to the Pekin Reflector, and through that channel to make them known to the inhabitants of the first city in the world. I have been but a short time in town; being fully instructed in the manners and dress of Europeans, I have found means to pass for a Frenchman, and in this character have already taken a glance of every thing worthy of notice about Edinburgh. Two days ago, I witnessed the investing sixteen learned youths with the power of healing. Methought, for I had never heard of any such ceremony, I could perceive in the countenances of the gentlemen a sudden and more dignified aspect, when a black bonnet was placed upon their head; as
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when the profound bonzes deliver their unintelligible mysteries to the multitude ; but a matter of much greater surprize than the magical effects of the cap, was the language spoken.—Conceive my astonishment, when I heard the men whose business it is to question the sick, to advise them, and administer relief, talk in a language, which I recollect my father told me was used by the Monks, in their mysteries, to conceal their ignorance. I never imagined that medicine contained mysteries dangerous to be revealed. A friend now informs me, that the purpose of using Latin in this ceremony is to preserve that dialect from decay. He added with regret, that unluckily the desired effect was not obtained ; for the candidates speak only a jargon ; and that few of the most learned men are masters of that language. Nay, he tells me, that some of the *Domini Candidati* know no more of it than a string of phrases, properly arranged and numbered, which they have been taught, to answer particular questions. In this case, I am afraid the young Doctors may sometimes mistake the number of the question, and read their answer from a wrong place. I would suggest to the *Senatus Academicus*, that instead of a dialect now every where disused the sublime language of China be adopted. The modern European tongues may not be sufficiently dignified ; and of all others, ours seems to be the fittest for this purpose ; its noble sound gives it a decided preference ; and the difficulty of its being acquired by the vulgar, must be an irresistible recommendation in favour of the *Sermo Sinensis*.

CHAM-PI-PI, THE SON.

This, however, was not all. An Italian Adventurer who had appeared in London and elsewhere, under the successive names of Stella, Gavache, and Manfredi....(what his real name was, God knows!)....came to Edinburgh with the name and assumed title of the Chevalier Manfredi, and, in a pompous advertisement, invited the literati to his public exhibition as an Improvisatore. Here, among many other wonderful feats, this foi-disant Knight of the Order of the Lion of Limbourg, engaged to dictate at once to any five Gentlemen extempore letters, upon any five given subjects, in
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the Latin, French, Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese Languages. Dr. Constance wrote to the diction of the Chevalier in what he called the Portuguese. Of this however he found the Linguist deplorably ignorant, but thought it unnecessary to expose him to his audience. On a second exhibition Dr. Constance again appeared, when the Chevalier called him aside, and acknowledged that he knew little of the Portuguese Language, but hoped he would assist him in getting through with the Portuguese letter, which Dr. C. having indignantly refused, the Chevalier prudently dropt the Portuguese altogether upon that occasion. About the same time a pompous certificate appeared in the Edinburgh Newspapers from Professors Monro, Finlayson, and Dalzel, and Dr. Congalton, stating, that they had attended the Chevalier's exhibition, and were fully satisfied of his proficiency in the French, Italian, and Spanish languages. Whether all these Gentlemen are accurate critics in the French and Italian, the Editor does not presume to say, but he may safely aver, that they are not all Masters of the Spanish. Soon after Dr. Gregory Grant, a *ci-devant* Professor, to shew that he was at least a French Scholar, published the following classical advertisement, which is copied verbatim et literatim, from the Edinburgh Evening Courant, of 4th July 1796.

“ Ayant été présent au deux différentes seances du Chevalier Manfredi, et ayant été satisfait, ainsi que toute la compagnie des preuves evidentes, qu'il nous a données de ses connoissances étendues et talents distingués dans la littérature, particulièrement Francoise et Latine (langues que je crois connaître assez pour n'en point en hasarder le jugement), j'ai cru nécessaire d'informer le public.

“ Avoir eu chez moi deux entretiens avec le Chev. M. sa facilité de parler la langue Latine et Francoise dans toute leur pureté, et sa methode d'enseigner me font (pour l'avantage du public) hautement declarer etre le Chev. Manfredi un homme de mérite, et un recommandable professeur.

“ GREGORY GRANT.”

All

All this Quackery was exposed in the Ghost by Dr. Constancio.

Lastly there appeared in the course of the last Session of the Edinburgh University, the following Jeu d'esprit, and which was, probably with justice, attributed to Dr. Constancio.

GRADUATION.

A GENTLEMAN of the University of Pavia, just arrived in this City, offers his Literary Services to Gentlemen aspiring to Medical honours. It is but too melancholy a truth, that in this Town, so famed for its learning, the instruction of Candidates is generally intrusted to mere GRINDERS.

The Doctor who now steps forth has claims infinitely superior. The honours he has received from the most celebrated Universities on the Continent; the reiterated thanks he has successively merited from Collegians of Leyden, Gottingen, Padua, Montpellier, and Salamanca; and, above all, his ardent wish to become useful to the numerous Youths who annually flock to the *Alma Mater* of CALEDONIA's Capital; all, all induce him to devote himself, for the present session, to the INJECTION of Knowledge, both Classica and Medical, into young Men of all capacities, by a new PLAN and APPARATUS, and upon the most Gentlemen-like terms.

Theses composed, or rendered from the vernacular tongue into the Latin of Celsus, at Two Guineas each. Surgeons Mates, for the Army or Navy, qualified in a week; fee only 10s. 6d. DOCTORS PREPARED in one kalendar month; fee, including Thesis, L. 5, 5s. Graduates for the Northern Universities at half price. The Professor's method is such, that his Pupils must inevitably be successful in their applications.

Letters addressed to Dr. A. S. S. left at the shop of William Creech, Esq. will be duly forwarded, and receive the most honourable attention.

N. B. Secrecy may be depended on.

